

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH LABELLING LAW

REF: PARIS 30617

PASS TO A.DAUMAN

1. THE EXPORTERS TEXTILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC) HAS EXPRESSED TO USG CONCERN THAT EFFECTIVE DATE OF FRENCH LABELLING LAWS TOO EARLY AND THAT REQUIREMENT THAT COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTATION BE IN FRENCH LANGUAGE COULD BE NONTARIFF BARRIER. ETAC CONTENDS FRENCH SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED FOR INVOICES OR RECEIPTS SINCE THESE ITEMS ARE NOT INTENDED FOR CONSUMER. WE BELIEVE ETAC'S CONCERN IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUSTIFIED. REPORTS ON ETAC'S POSITION FORWARDED BY

INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

2. ALSO FORWARDED DRAFT ARTICLE SCHEDULED TO BE PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 22 ISSUE OF COMMERCE AMERICA WHICH WILL ALERT OTHER U.S. EXPORTERS TO NEWFRENCH LABELLING LAW AND SOLICIT THEIR COMMENTS. AFTER REVIEW OF REACTION FROM U.S. EXPORTERS, USG VIEWS ON FRENCH LABELLING LAW WILL BE PROVIDED TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO FRENCH AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO JANUARY 10, 1977 TO ALLOW GOF CONSIDERATION OF USG VIEWS BEFORE PROJECTED DATE FOR ISSUANCE OF FRENCH

REGULATIONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTED TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF LAW AS IT WOULD APPLY TO COMMERCIAL INVOICES, RECEIPTS, CUSTOMS PAPERS, AND OTHER SUCH DOCUMENTS CONCERNING TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN U.S. EXPORTERS AND FRENCH IMPORTERS WHICH ARE NOT AT RETAIL LEVEL. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING EFFECTIVE DATE OF LAW AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED. SUGGEST EMBASSY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EMBASSY VISIT OF ALEXANDER DAUMAN NOVEMBER 18-19 TO DISCUSS ISSUE AND PROVIDE HIM WITH ADVANCE DRAFT OR STATUS REPORT ON FRENCH IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS (IF AVAILABLE) AND ADVISE HIM OF POSITION OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN FRANCE. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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